**Dialogue with ABSU**

869. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to initiate dialogue with the Assam Bodo Students Union who are agitating for the setting up of a a Bodoland within the framework of the Constitution; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) This is primarily a matter concerning the State Government.

The State Government of Assam has held discussions with the Bodo Leadership and the representatives of the Assam Bodo Students Union with regard to the genuine demands of the tribal people and is hopeful of solving their problems.

**Export of Textile Products**

870. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the total value of textile products of all kinds exported by the country and the total value of synthetic yarn and of raw material and plant and equipment for manufacturing such yarn imported by the country year-wise from 1980 to 1988 so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): A Statement-I showing export of cotton textiles and readymade garments is attached. (*See* below)

A Statement-II showing import of synthetic and regenerated fibres suitable for spinning and machineries for extruding man-made textiles is attached. (*See* below)

**Statement-I**

EXPORT OF TEXTILES

(*Cotton Textile and Readymade Garments*)

(value in Rs. Crores)

| Year | Value |
|---|---|
| 1980 | 850 |
| 1981 | 1057 |
| 1982 | 1066 |
| 1983 | 1063 |
| 1984 | 1456 |
| 1985 | 1716 |
| 1986 | 1979 |
| 1987 | 3018 |
| 1988 Jan.—Sept.) | 2625. (P) |

P: Provisional.

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta.

Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council, Bombay.

Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi.

Statement-II

*Import of Synthetic and regenerated fibres suitable for spinning and machines for extruding man-made textiles.*

(Value in Rs. Crores)

| Year | Synthetic & regenerated fibres suitable for spinning | Machines for extruding man-made textiles |
|---|---|---|
| 1980-81 | 96 53 | 0.20 |
| 1981-82 | 173.18 | 1.01 |
| 1982-83 | 145.66 | 0.23 |
| 1983-84 | 104.81 | 0. 45 |
| 1984-85 | 60.27 | 0.31 |
| 1985-86 | 63.63 | 0.53 |
| 1986-87 | 44.11 (P) | NA |
| 1987-88 | 2823 (P) | NA |

P : Provisional

Source : Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta.

**Import of Timber**

871. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the quantity of timber and timber products imported into the country year-wise from 1978 to 1988 so far and the value thereof;

(b) what are the reasons that prompted such imports; and

(c) what steps, if any, are being taken to stop or drastically reduce such imports for conserving foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) A statement showing the import of wood in the rough or roughly squared form during 1977-78 to 1985-86 is attached. Data is available upto March '86 only. (See Appendix CXLVIII Annexure No. 37A]

(b) Import of timber has been allowed with a view to conserve the country's depleting forest resources. Under the current policy import of all kinds of timber logs (if sawn and rectangular or square, the minimum size of log should be 10 cm X 10 cm X 2 m; if cylindrical, minimum size of the log should be 10 cmX2 m. length is allowed under Open General Licence to all persons for stock and sale. The import is allowed at concessional rate of duty. Consequently, actual users can import timber for their own use or procure the imported timber from stockists.

(c) From the data available, it may be seen that foreign exchange outgo on this account is minimal. Further, with a view to conserve forest resources, no steps are considered necessary to reduce such imports.

**Godown storage facility for Cotton**

872. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state: